

Dhanauri Wetlands, Location, Importance, Significance

January 31, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Dhanauri Wetlands is an important bird-watching and conservation area located in Dhanauri village near Dankaur, Uttar Pradesh. It is widely known for being a safe habitat for the Sarus crane, the state bird of Uttar Pradesh. Over the years, Dhanauri has emerged as one of North India's most significant natural wetlands due to its rich biodiversity and ecological value.

Dhanauri Wetlands

- **Location:** Dhanauri village near Dankaur, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh
- **Conservation Status:** A natural wetland recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International and documented by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
- **Hosts a Variety of Bird Species, Including:** Common teal, Mallard, Northern pintail, Greylag geese, Bar-headed geese, Woolly-necked stork, Black-necked stork, Painted stork and Eurasian marsh harrier

Dhanauri Wetlands Significance

Dhanauri Wetlands is an ecologically important natural wetland in Uttar Pradesh that supports rich biodiversity, especially the **Sarus crane**, the state bird. It plays a vital role in conserving endangered bird species and supporting large migratory bird populations.

- Serves as a **key habitat for the Sarus crane**, with over 150 individuals recorded, aiding species conservation.
- Hosts **more than 217 bird species**, including resident and migratory birds.
- Provides shelter to **23 endangered, critically endangered, and threatened bird species**.
- Acts as an important **nesting, breeding, and feeding ground** for waterbirds.
- Supports **over 50,000 migratory waterfowls** during peak migration season (November–March).
- Recognized as an **Important Bird Area (IBA)** by BirdLife International.
- Documented by the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** for its high ecological value.
- Helps in **maintaining local ecological balance**, groundwater recharge, and flood control.
- Meets several **Ramsar Wetland criteria**, strengthening its case for international recognition.

Ramsar Wetlands

- The **Ramsar Convention**, also called the **Convention on Wetlands**, is an international environmental treaty established in **1971** under UNESCO.
- It is named after **Ramsar city in Iran**, where the convention was first signed.
- **Ramsar sites** are wetlands recognized for their **global ecological importance** under this convention.
- The **Montreux Record** is a list of Ramsar sites facing ecological threats and requiring **special monitoring and conservation efforts**.

Ramsar Site Designation Criteria

A wetland is designated as a Ramsar Site based on the following criteria:

- Represents **rare, unique, or natural wetland types**.
- Supports **endangered or threatened species** or ecological communities.
- Maintains **biodiversity in specific biogeographic regions**.
- Provides **refuge to species during adverse environmental conditions**.
- Regularly supports **20,000 or more waterbirds**.
- Sustains **at least 1% of the population of a single waterbird species**.
- Serves as an important **source of food, spawning ground, nursery, or migration route for fish**.

Regularly supports **1% of the population of non-avian wetland-dependent animal species**.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/dhanauri-wetlands/>

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